

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were pending in the patent application. By this amendment, Applicants have canceled four (4) claims, Claims 5, 13, 20, and 27, and have added three (3) new dependent claims, Claims 28-30. No additional filing fee is required for introduction of three new claims in excess of 20 total claims, since more claims are being canceled than are being added.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 9 for an informality, specifically a misspelling. By this amendment, Applicants correct the spelling of the term "causing". The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by the teachings of the Isikoff patent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully assert that the remaining claims, Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-19, 21-26, and 28-30 are allowable over the cited art.

The present invention relates to a portable computer having a security device, such as an RF antenna, incorporated therein. The computer apparatus and method provide for detection of removal of the security device and denial of access to the computer if it is determined that

removal of the security device was unauthorized. Under the present invention, unlike the prior art, the security device can optionally be legitimately removed from the portable computer with authorization, and access to the computer will not be denied. The computer has a first storage area for storing data indicating whether a security device was ever attached to the computer. That storage area is capable of storing information even when the computer is not powered up. Moreover, the invention further provides for protection of that stored data (i.e., prohibiting access to change that stored data) so that an unauthorized user cannot alter the original stored information. Upon successive monitoring by the CPU, or powering up of the computer, the stored data is accessed to determine whether a security device was ever attached to the computer. Further, it is dynamically determined if the security device is presently attached to the computer. If the security device is not presently attached, and removal was not legitimate (as determined, for example, by entry of an authorized password), access to the computer is denied. If, however, it is determined that removal of the security device was legitimate, access to the computer is permitted, and the authorization information is stored for future reference.

The Isikoff patent is directed to a computer antenna which is used both for communication and security. If the computer is stolen, the antenna signal can be traced to locate the computer. Isikoff provides for the antenna to be activated as a security device when unusual activity is detected. In addition, Isikoff mentions, although does not provide implementation details for, actuating internal security protocols, such as erasing the hard drive, in response to the unusual activity. Applicants respectfully assert, however, that Isikoff does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed. Isikoff does not provide a first storage location, capable of storing data even when the power is not turned on, wherein the stored data indicates whether a security device was ever attached to the computer. Isikoff does not teach or suggest that antenna data be stored or accessed in order to verify whether an antenna should be connected. Rather, Isikoff detects a misentered password (Col. 9, lines 11-13) or may test circuitry wired to the antenna (Col. 4, lines 43-44) in order to determine that the computer has been stolen or tampered with. Further, Isikoff does not provide any teachings regarding legitimate removal of, or disabling of, its antenna, use of a password to allow legitimate removal of its antenna, or

storage of information regarding legitimate removal of its antenna. Isikoff expressly teaches that the antenna is integral to the computer unit and that any tampering is unauthorized. Finally, while Isikoff does suggest disabling some operation of the computer when tampering or removal is detected, Isikoff does not teach or suggest that access to the computer is prohibited unless the removal of the antenna is verified as authorized.

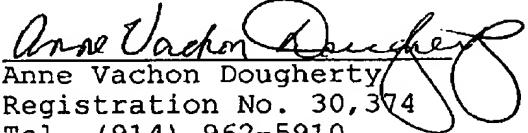
It is well established under U. S. Patent Law that, for a reference to anticipate claim language under 35 USC 102, that reference must teach each and every claim feature. Since the Isikoff patent does not teach storage means or steps for storing data about original attachment of a security device, does not teach that said storing can be conducted without powering on the computer, does not teach accessing the stored data and determining if a security device has been removed based on accessing that data, and does not teach determining if removal was authorized, with storage of authorized removal data, it cannot be maintained that the Isikoff patent anticipates the invention as claimed.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the amended claim language in light of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Tanaka, et al

By:


Anne Vachon Dougherty
Registration No. 30,374
Tel. (914) 962-5910